

THE
CROWN and GLORY
OF
Christianity

TO THE
SAINT'S EVERLASTING REST.

OR, THE
Young MAN's Guide
Through the Wilderness of this World.

With a Drop of Honey from the Rock of CHRIST:
Every Virtue is a Step to Eternity.

Newly published to the Glory of GOD and the Benefit of
the POOR.

Written by Dr. GILBERT, and set forth
for the Good of all Christian Families.

Matthew xi. 28, 29, 30 *Come unto me all ye that labour
and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my
Yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly
in Heart; and ye shall find Rest unto your Souls. For
my Yoke is easy and my Burden is light.*

L O N D O N: Printed in the Year 1759.

Keep it clean till call'd for.



THE
CROWN *and* GLORY .

OF

CHRISTIANITY.

CHRISTIANS, seek good and not evil, that you may live, and the Lord will be with you; God will maintain you all your days in his service; he will be your guide even unto death. Whilst you have a day to live God will stand by you, he will never leave you nor forsake you; surely goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your lives and the Lord will never turn away from you to do you good; I will be an husband to you, and will betroth you unto me for ever. You shall not need to fear, I will give my choice love; I will give you my heart; I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters. Therefore *Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden and I will give you rest unto your souls. For my yoke*

yoke is easy and my burden is light. I will be a shepherd to you, for no evil, for I am with you; you shall not want, for I will feed you; you shall not wander nor be lost, for I will restore you; I will cause you to fall down in green pastures, and feed you beside the still waters. I will be a physician to you. I will hear your backslidings, and cure all your disease: Therefore fear not, never did soul miscarry that left itself in God's hands: I will be a God unto your children: Consider how happy your condition will be, if in time you repent and forsake your sins, then God will be your father, Christ will be your brother, and the spirit will be your comforter. You shall be filled with the joy of the Holy Ghost; You shall have the free pardon of all your sins, so that they shall be remembered no more.

O my soul, dost thou not see the chariots of fire, and the horses of fire, come to take thee up? be thou as poor as *Lazarus*, yet God will not disdain to send a party of angels to conduct thee home, fear not my soul, as if thou were going to a strange place: Why, my soul, thou wast born from above, and here is thy father's house, and therefore thou shalt surely be admitted, and shalt see the glorious preparations of eternal love. Methinks I hear already how the morning stars sing together, and all the sons of God shout for joy. The Lord hath
spoke.

spoke it. You shall see his face and his name shall be written in your foreheads, and you shall reign with God for ever and ever: Therefore hold out and be saved, overcome and reign, be faithful unto death and he will give thee a crown of life. This is the plain case, obey and live or die for ever; and therefore, what can I say less or more. I will be his servant, let others choose whom they will, as for me, **O** my soul serve the Lord.

This resolution thus founded is like to stand, should I wrong my God? Hath he ever done me any wrong? Hath he not been ever good to me? Kind, pitiful, patient, bountiful, who hath fed me, cloathed me, kept me, comforted me, what friend have I in the world; What father, what mother, what friend, what portion, what hope but in the Lord? What were I, what had I, but woe and misery? Had I not a God? Therefore I love God above all, with all my heart, with all my soul, he is always my hope, and all my desire? What a miserable creature were I? If it were not for my hope in God, what would all the world be to me if I should lose my soul.

But dost thou speak as in earnest? dost thou think what thou speakest; Yea, saith the sinner, I gladly commit myself to thee, and trust myself with thee; I set my hopes in thee, I take up my rest with thee: Lord let me hear thee say.

I am

I am thy God and thy salvation, and I have enough, come unto me all the ends of the earth and ye shall be saved, for I am God, and there is none else but me. Now put on thy wedding garment and go and marry thyself to Jesus Christ, and say. I am thine and all that I have, my body, my soul, my name, my estate, I give my heart to thee I will be thine everlastingly.

If it be so then the Lord will give thee the desire of thy house, thou shalt have whatsoever thou desirest, keep but the pipes open and play the means which I have prescribed, and ye shall flourish in the courts of your God; God will be as the dew upon you, and ye shall grow as the Lilly, and shoot forth your roots as Lebanon, and your beauty shall be as the olive tree: You shall still bring forth fruit in old age, you shall be fat and flourishing. I will be a staff of bread to your life, and the strength of your days, and I will be the house and home to you, and you shall dwell in me and I in you. I will repair your losses and relieve your needs. Are you in want; You know where to come, I am ever at home, You shall not go away empty from my door, I will serve you when friends fail you, and heart fails, when your eye and heart strings crack, when your acquaintance leave you, your soul leaves, my bosom shall be open to you. I will lock up your dust, I will receive your souls, I am the God of *Abraham*,
and

and of *Isaac*, and of *Jacob*, and whatever I have been to them, I will be to you.

Here is mercy for the worst of sinners, behold I have spread the table of my gospel for you with priviledges and comforts that no man taketh from you. I have set before you the bread and water of Life, eat friends, drink abundantly, be satisfied with the fatness of his house, and the heaven shall receive you all, and so may you be for ever with the Lord.

Now blessed is he that hath believed, for there will be a performance of those things that have been told him, for no sooner shall your doom be past, but the bench will rise and the judge will return with all the glorious train, with sound of trumpet, and shouts incredible will he ascend, and will lead you to your father's house, then will the angels lift up their heads, and the everlasting gates stand open, and the heavens will receive you all: In short, he will make you equal to the angels of God, and you will be the everlasting trumpets of his praise; and besides all this, whensoever death comes, whether sooner or later, you shall be sure of heaven, and as for your bodies, they will be laid in the grave, as in the bed of Christ, there to rest until the glorious morning of the resurrection, then you will be received into heaven, the place of rest, joy, and bliss? then you will be stript of all your robes of
morta-

mortality, and be cloathed with immortality :
 Then you shall meet with your dear friends and
 relations that departed in the fear of God, and
 no tongue can express the joy you will have
 one with another to all eternity, then you may
 be able to say at the great day, Yonder sits the
 Son of God, whose blood was shed for my sal-
 vation. Which the Lord of his mercy grant.
Amen.

You that buy this book, pray notice take,
 See that you don't the holy sabbath break?
 Six days God made that we might labour to,
 To let the seventh to his devotion go.
 Would'st thou thy parents honour, God will
bless

With peace, long life, great joy, and happiness;
 But he that curses, surely will at last,
 Without God's mercy into hell be cast.

And I question not but through a blessing
 from above, that the reading of this little book
 may do your souls good.

I Thes. chap. V. and 3d verse. *And the
 very God of peace sanctify you wholly; And I pray
 God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved
 unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

A short Prayer.

O GOD heavenly father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ, hast promised to all them that seek thy kingdom, in the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; keep me I beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and learn me whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content: Grant me grace to forsake all covetous desires, and inordinate love of riches, and so to pass thro' things temporal that I finally lose not the things eternal; but that among all the sundry and manifold changes of the world, my heart may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

F I N I S.